(d) what steps will be taken to help the farmers affected by failing monsoon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir. The India Meteorological Department have forecast a normal South-West Monsoon for the year 1997. Quantitatively, the rainfall for the country as a whole for the entire monsoon season (June to September), is forecst to be 92% of its long period average value within the model forecast error limit of ±4.

(b) As per the latest available information from the India Meteorological Department, there has been normal to excess rainfall in 26 meteorological sub-divisions comprising 64% of the districts in the country during the period 1.6.97 to 16.7.97. So far, the country has received 96% of the normal rainfall. However, in the remaining 9 meteorological sub-divisions covering Jammu & Kashmir, East Madhya Pradesh, West Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha & Marathawada, Orissa Costal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Andman & Nicobar Islands have received deficient rainfall.

(c) It is too early to assess the effect of deficient rainfall on the growth of crops in the areas mentioned above.

(d) the State Governments have already been advised to formulate detailed countingency plans for helping the farmers.

Starvation Deaths in Orissa

329. SHRI SANATAN BISI:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report from National Human Rights Commission on the starvation deaths in the K.B.K. district of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) No formal report has been received from the National Human Rights Commission except the report of the official Team deputed by the Commission to investigate the reported starvation deaths in some areas of Orissa, seeking Government's comments.

Elnino Effect over the Pacific

330. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news in section of the press recently that something known as the Elnino effect has occurred over the Pacific and average temperature of the Pacific has risen by IOC due to which monsoon will fail on central India and there will be drought;

(b) what is Government's reaction to this; and

(c) what steps are being taken to help the farmers who will suffer due to scarcity of rains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The unfaourable trend of El-nino over the period March-May, 1997 has been taken into account by India Meteorological Department while formulation its Long Range Forecast for the 1997 monsoon rainfall, based on its 16-Parameter Power Regression Model. As per this Year's forecast, the rainfall for the country as a whole for the period June-September is likely to be about 92% of the long period average with an error limit of ±4% which is considered normal.

(c) Government of India had, in March, 1997, circulated to the State Governments a Model Contingency Plan for crop production containing guidelines for effectively responding to various adverse seasonal conditions including scarcity of rains and long dry spells. The State Governments have also formulated contigency palns for their respective States, based on these guidelines.

बिहार के लिए आपदा नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम के तहत अलग से योजना

331. **श्री जनार्दन यादव:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने आपदा नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम के तहत बिहार के लिए कोई अलग से योजना तैयार की है अथवा तैयार करने का विचार रखती है क्योंकि यह सूखा, तूफान और बाढ़ जैसी प्राकृतिक आपदाओं से प्रति वर्ष प्रभावित होता है;

(ख) 26 सितम्बर, 1996 को आए बाढ़ एवं तूफान से हुए नुकसानों की भरपाई करने के लिए बिहार राज्य को सहायतानुदान की कितनी राशि स्वीकृत की गई/जारी की गई है; और

(ग) सहायतानुदान का ब्यौरा क्या है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० एस० वेंगुगोपालाचारी): (क) उत्तरी बिहार में बाढ़ की रोकथाम के लिए जल संसाधन मंत्रालय द्वारा प्रचालित केन्द्रीय सहायता-प्राप्त एक योजना आठवीं योजना के दौरान प्रचालन में थी। भारत सरकार नेपाल क्षेत्र में कोसी नदी पर बाढ़ से बांधों को सुरक्षित रखने के लिए बिहार सरकार को अनुदान सहायता भी प्रदान करती रही है। इन कार्यक्रमों को नवीं योजना प्रस्ताव में जारी रखने के लिए शामिल कर लिया गया है। ग्रामीण क्षेत्र व रोजगार मंत्रालय द्वारा 16 जिलों के 121 अभिज्ञात ब्लाकों में सूखा प्रवण क्षेत्र कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वित किया जा रहा है ताकि सूखे के प्रभाव को कम किया जा सके।

(ख) और (ग) वर्ष 1996-97 के दौरान बिहार सरकार को आपदा राहत कोष के केन्द्रीय अंश के रूप में 38.97 करोड़ रुपये की राशि निर्मुक्त की गई। इसके अलावा 1996 के दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून, के दौरान भारी वर्षा और बाढ़ के समय राष्ट्रीय आपदा राहत कोष से बिहार सरकार को राहत एवं पुनर्वास उपायों के लिए 7.00 करोड़ रुपये की राशि भी निर्मुक्त की गई।

Transfer of DMS to Delhi Government

332. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is correct that the Delhi Milk Scheme has been transferred to the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, what have been the reasons and background thereof; and

(c) the details of assets, liabilities and terms and conditions of the transfer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) A decision has been taken by the Central Government to transfer the Delhi Milk Scheme to the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) The transfer is based on the view that a public utility like milk supply should be run by the local Government.

(c) The details are being worked out.

Loss suffered by Paradip Phosphates Ltd.

333. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Paradip Phosphates Ltd. suffered a loss of Rupees four crores during the first week of May this year as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated 12th May, 1997;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons that the above company suffered a heavy loss only in one week;

(c) whether Government have conducted any enquiry in this matter;

(d) if so, the findings of the enquiry; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?